

—It's your opinion

Special ed group needs SIDC land

This June I attended a very unusual graduation at the Occupational Training Center. It was very special to me because I came to see the young woman whom I have been tutoring for 16 months graduate and receive some special awards. But it gained an even deeper significance as I observed the colorful school, heard the brief but meaningful speeches, and was thrilled by the choir. During the music, there were very few parents and friends who were not visibly moved. We were moved by the achievements and the happiness of the graduates. The next day I was struck with the thought, "Where do these 35 graduates go from here?"

One group, Imagine A Better Way, has many plans and dreams for these and other special ed students. Since there are very few or no educational or recreational facilities for special ed students who are over 21 years of age, they hope to start their new school. This group is extremely enthusiastic, as they are the parents of these young adults. In order to start their school, Imagine A Better Way has put in a bid for four acres of land on the grounds of the Staten Island Development Center.

Since there are so many special ed young adults with so much potential and so little choice of programs, how can anyone refuse to grant this modest amount of land to these young people? We need support and I urge that those who are interested in helping in this worthy cause to please contact Imagine A Better Way, P.O. Box 136, Eltingville Station, Staten Island, N.Y.

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